

TOBYHANNA REPORTER

Permit No. 50
First Class
U.S. Postage Paid
Tobyhanna, PA 18466

VOL. 50, No. 12

TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, TOBYHANNA, PA.

(WWW.TOBYHANNA.ARMY.MIL)

JUNE 20, 2006

NEWS NOTES

Youth help fight cancer

The Tobyhanna Youth Volunteers will be hosting a fundraiser for "Alex's Lemonade," which benefits pediatric cancer research.

On June 28, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., there will be two lemonade stands, one in front of the Credit Union and the other in front of the MAC Machine in Building 1A.

The volunteers will give cups of lemonade for donations to raise money for the Alex's Lemonade Fund. For further information, call Kate Bush, Army Volunteer Corps coordinator, X58374.

Weight Watchers starts session

Weight Watchers eight-week 'At Work' program begins July 6. Sessions will be held 11:15 a.m. every Thursday in the Nina Newhart Blood Room.

Cost is \$80 and a minimum of 15 participants is required for each session. Some participants may be eligible for full or partial reimbursement from their health insurance provider. Because individual plans vary, people should check with their provider for specific plan benefits.

For more information or to register, call Janine Yablonski, X57942.

Hunters must register for course

There will be a Hunter Education Course from 5 to 9 p.m. July 28 and from 8 to 4 p.m. July 29 in the Mack Field House.

The course is free and open to the public. Limited seating is available and advance registration is required. Participants must attend both classes and pass a written exam. Parents are encouraged to attend with children ages 12 and older.

For more information, call Jackie Vass, Community Recreation Division chief, X57584.

Online survey seeks feedback

Responses for the online, anonymous Command Climate Survey will be accepted up to June 23.

The survey is designed to measure attitudes on a variety of topics affecting mission accomplishment. Feedback gathered from the survey will be used to help shape future decisions.

This survey is a cooperative effort between the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Life Cycle Management Command, Equal Employment Opportunity offices and the C-E LCMC inspector general.



Mike McGinty tests the servo motor of a Bradley Fighting Vehicle periscope mirror. Tobyhanna technicians repaired and tested 50 periscope heads in a month. McGinty is an electronics mechanic in the Bradley Fighting Vehicle Branch, part of the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate's Electro Optics/Night Vision Division. (Photo by Anthony Ricchiazzi)

Bradley Fighting Vehicle Branch meets last minute surge request

by Anthony Ricchiazzi
Editor

Electro Optics/Night Vision technicians met a more than 200 percent increase in monthly workload for a Bradley Fighting Vehicle component.

The U.S. Army Aviation Missile Command requested that the Bradley Fighting Vehicle Branch, part of the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate's Electro Optics/Night Vision Division, repair and test 50 Bradley periscope heads. The usual number averages 15 per month, said Mike Verrastro, branch supervisor. The mission started in October 2005.

"The request came about March 28," he said. "We pulled people from other cells in the branch, like the TOW (missile) Visual Module and Basic Sight Assembly, to assemble a seven-member team and they went to work."

The periscope head is the top portion of the periscope that contains the lenses and mirrors used by the gunner and

commander to aim weapons systems and observe what is outside the vehicle.

"The periscope includes a thermal night vision scope and a laser range finder," said Tony Cuchara, electronics mechanic. "It's aligned with the Bradley's weapons systems, so for example if the mirror resolver moves up or down, a weapon moves with it to stay on target."

The Bradley is equipped with a 25mm cannon, a 7.62mm machine gun and TOW II missiles.

Work included complete disassembly, repair and testing of all mechanical and electrical components, plus sanding and painting by the Refinishing Services Division, Systems Integration and Support Directorate.

"The periscope head has several components. There are precision lenses, highly polished metal mirrors, circuit cards, torque motors, servo amplifiers and bearings," said Mike McGinty, electronics mechanic. "We had to disassemble them all. The only thing we couldn't finish in-house was the bearings."

See BRADLEY PERISCOPE on Page 7

Scattered showers predicted for depot facility

Page 3

Employee clowns around in foreign country

Page 4

Excellence in Electronics: Around the Depot

Page 5

Army restructures commands, specified headquarters

WASHINGTON—The Army is reorganizing its commands and specified headquarters to accelerate transformation efforts and increase the Army's responsiveness at home and abroad.

The new structure identifies three types of headquarters: Army Commands, Army Service Component Commands and Direct Reporting Units.

"Breaking the major Army commands out into three entities recognizes the roles and scopes of units' authorities and responsibilities," said Col. John Phelan of the Office of Institutional Army Adaptation. "This restructuring defines, aligns and assigns. It also gives functional experts the responsibility and authority to provide seamless support."

The three Army Commands are: U.S. Army Forces Command (designated by the Secretary of the Army as both an Army Command under the direction of Headquarters, Department of the Army and the Army Service Component Command to U.S. Joint Forces Command), U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, and U.S. Army Materiel Command.

The nine Army Service Component Commands are comprised primarily of operational organizations serving as the Army component for a combatant commander. They are:

- U.S. Army Europe,
- U.S. Army Central,
- U.S. Army North,
- U.S. Army South,
- U.S. Army Pacific,
- U.S. Army Special Operations Command,
- Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, and

• U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Strategic Command and Eighth U.S. Army.

Each of the 11 Direct Reporting Units are comprised of one or more units with institutional or operating functions, providing broad general support to the Army in a normally single, unique discipline not available elsewhere in the

Army. They are:

- U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command/9th Signal Command (Army) (NETCOM/9th SC (A)),
- U.S. Army Medical Command,
- U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command,
- U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command,
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
- U.S. Army Military District of Washington,
- U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command,
- U.S. Military Academy,
- U.S. Army Reserve Command,
- U.S. Army Acquisition Support Command and
- U.S. Army Installation Management Agency.

Realignment changes were necessitated by the Army's changing missions, said Lt. Col. Darrell Wilson, functional team leader for the realignment.

"In the global-basing strategy that's been put out, we're going to become, for the most part, a CONUS-based force that projects capability out to where it needs to be projected," Wilson said. "We're becoming modular so we can quickly form up and tailor the right tools for the right job, making us a more agile, adaptable and flexible service."

The restructuring accomplishes four objectives:

- It recognizes the global role and multi-disciplined functions of the Army Commands;
- It establishes the Army Service Component Commands as reporting directly to the Department while serving as the Army's single point of contact for a combatant command;
- It acknowledges Direct Reporting Units as functional proponents at the Department of the Army level; and
- It enables the Army to set the foundation for gaining better effectiveness and efficiencies by transforming its business processes, while operationally focusing the theater Armies to combatant commands.

Lineage and heraldic honors will be preserved in the

U.S. Army streamlines service uniforms

WASHINGTON—Army service uniforms will be streamlined to one blue Army Service Uniform, the Army announced.

"World-class Soldiers deserve a simplified, quality uniform. The blue Army Service Uniform is a traditional uniform that is consistent with the Army's most honored traditions," said Sgt. Maj. Of the Army Kenneth O. Preston.

"We have all of these variations of uniforms – green, blue and white," said Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker. "It makes sense for us to go to one traditional uniform that is really sharp and high quality, and which Soldiers will be very proud to wear. And that's what we've done by adopting this blue Army Service Uniform that reflects simplicity, quality, utility and tradition."

Many Soldiers already own an Army blue uniform (now to be called the Army Service Uniform) and may continue to wear it. Improvements will be made to the fabric and fit.

"What we want to do is design the uniform so it's tailored to the Soldier, so it fits his or her physique better," said Preston.

The new uniform will be wrinkle-free and include a gold braid on the trousers for E-5's and above. Additionally, the service cap will be authorized for wear by NCOs as well as officers.

Reduction of the number of uniforms will reduce the burden on Soldiers for purchases and alteration cost, officials added.

Introduction in the Army Military Clothing Sales Stores should begin in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2007. Introduction in the Clothing Bag should begin first quarter 2009. The Mandatory Possession Date is expected to be fourth quarter fiscal year 2011.

A wear-out date for the Army Green Class A and White dress uniforms will be determined at a later date. (Army News Service)

command names and their insignia.

"The Chief of Staff and the Secretary of the Army said, 'We want to keep alive and link these folks to a patch that keeps the history of the field Army moving,'" Wilson said. "So, the Third Army will become U.S. Army Central; it will be the same organization; they won't change their patch but officially they become U.S. Army Central." (Army News Service)



Staff Sgt. Marvin Hurd's pay statement will indicate if he will be affected by the theft of personal data from a Department of Veterans Affairs employee. The Soldier is part of the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team that's deployed to Southwest Asia. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Lock)

DoD to inform servicemembers of data loss on pay statements

WASHINGTON—The Defense Department will inform servicemembers who could be affected by the May theft of personal data from the Department of Veterans Affairs through their monthly pay statements, a DoD spokesman said June 12.

DoD is in the middle of an analysis to determine how many active-duty, Reserve and National Guard servicemembers could be affected by the data loss, which occurred when a VA employee loaded personal data onto a laptop, which was then stolen from his home, Army Lt. Col. Jeremy Martin said. The VA initially reported that the data stolen included personal information on as many as 26.5 million veterans, and later updated the report to include as many as 1.1 million active-duty servicemembers, 430,000 National Guardsmen, and 645,000 members of the Reserves as possible victims.

These numbers are preliminary, as the DoD and VA are still working to determine exactly what data was on the laptop.

When the analysis is completed in upcoming weeks, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service will inform those servicemembers who are determined to be vulnerable by putting a note on the bottom of their monthly leave and earnings statements, Martin said. The note will include phone numbers and Web sites that will provide more information on identity theft and what troops can do to protect themselves, he said.

The VA has set up a special Web site and a toll-free telephone number for those possibly affected by the data loss: www.firstgov.gov and 1-800-FED-INFO (1-800-333-4636). Each features up-to-date news and information on the data compromise. The Web site provides steps on how to check credit reports, how to guard against identity theft, and who to call if an individual believes any fraudulent activity is occurring with his or her personal information. (American Forces Press Service)

TOBYHANNA REPORTER

The Tobyhanna Reporter is an authorized, biweekly publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the Tobyhanna Reporter are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.

The 6,000 copies are printed by a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. government, under exclusive written contract with Tobyhanna Army Depot.

While story ideas are solicited from readers, the responsibility for determining material used is delegated to the editor.

News may be submitted to the Tobyhanna Reporter, Tobyhanna Army Depot, 11 Hap Arnold Boulevard, Tobyhanna, Pa., 18466-5076. (Internal Mail Stop 5076.) Telephone (570) 895-7557 or DISN 795-7557.

The Tobyhanna Reporter staff can also be reached by electronic mail using the following addresses:

Anthony.Ricchiazzi@tobyhanna.army.mil

Jacqueline.Boucher@tobyhanna.army.mil



Heavy rainfall soaks Tobyhanna test facility

by Jacqueline Boucher
Assistant Editor

Predicting the weather is not an exact science. It ranges from simple weather folklore to complex computer simulations. Nevertheless, if Tobyhanna wants rain, it gets rain with the flip of a switch.

Equipment being repaired or overhauled here will undergo water tightness testing at the new rain test facility. The \$900,000 structure is adjacent to Building 9 and can simulate types of rainfall found anywhere in the world from mist and gentle rain to downpour.

"This [new facility] will make my job a lot easier," said Ray Werner, day shift work leader, explaining that the previous temporary location shared space with the sandblasters and painters in Building 9. Until recently, he said, one test on the AN/TPQ-37 Firefinder antenna could take up to nine days to complete while working around other projects. Werner is a sandblaster leader who works in the Refinishing Services Division, Systems Integration and Support Directorate.

Workers also had to deal with inconsistent pressure, inadequate drainage and protection from the water during tests, and an unreliable pump.

"Now if I need to run a test for an hour, I can, without worry of disrupting other projects," Werner said. "If leaks are discovered, repairs can be made in the facility without moving the piece of equipment, making it easier to start a follow-up test."

The building boasts high-tech controls and pumps capable of producing the equivalent of 10 feet of water per hour. There are two 20-horsepower pumps and one 50-horsepower pump.

"The 20-horsepower pumps can generate an enormous amount of water, I can only imagine what the 50-horsepower pump is capable of," Werner said. The building also operates an environmentally friendly system, which recycles the water through a 10,000 gallon tank to conserve water.

Employees use a series of rack systems fitted with different-size nozzles to create precise conditions for each test. The controls direct water pressure and flow rate. The new test facility is 82 feet long, 25 feet wide and 18 feet high; plenty of room for the Miniaturized Multiple Threat Emitter System, AN/TPS-75 Mobile Tactical Radar Systems, MPS-TI radar training control vans, or AN/TRC-170 radio systems.

"The design aspect of this project was technically complex. Industry standards required the facility to produce an incredible amount of water, which required a lot of horsepower," said John Lyman, project manager. "As the depot's requirements to test different types of equipment increased, so did the need to build a new facility." Lyman is a civil engineer in the Public Works Directorate.

The facility can test each system for leaks before it's deployed to servicemembers in the field," according to Ron Scarnulis, acting chief, New Technology Research and Development

Division. "Stringent customer requirements dictate how each wet weather test will be conducted. For instance, when testing the AN/TPS-75 shelter, we must follow an American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) standard for water tightness. This standard specifies the spray nozzle size, spray nozzle configuration, water pressure and test duration."

ASTM International is a standards development organization that provides a source for technical standards for

materials, products, systems and services.

"Overall we're satisfied with the building," Scarnulis said. "It's now big enough to test all the equipment here that requires testing, and employs state-of-the-art technology to do the job."

Lyman agreed that the new building should help the directorate fulfill long-term goals.

"It's an excellent building for what they want to do. Plus it will alleviate congestion at the previous location."

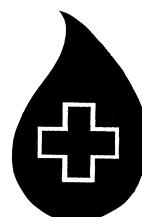


A light mist envelopes an S2-80 shelter during a 40-minute water tightness test in the new rain test facility. The facility simulates types of rainfall from mist to downpour to meet varying requirements of depot customers. (Photo by Anthony Ricchiazzi)



Depot welcomes Army leadership

Left, Bob Rosencrans (right) explains to the Honorable Dr. Francis Harvey, Secretary of the Army, how a Replacement Frequency Modulation Order Wire System works inside an AN/TSC-85D Satellite Communications Terminal. Below, Gene Cardamone (left) talks about the bore sight operation on the Sidewinder Missile while the secretary visited the Tactical Missile Division. Bottom left, Col. Tracy Ellis, depot commander and Frank Zardecki, deputy depot commander, greet Harvey (center) and his guests June 8. Harvey arrived early, toured Tobyhanna facilities and attended briefings until departing at 1 p.m. Rosencrans and Cardamone are electronics mechanics assigned to the Communications Systems and Command, Control and Computer Systems (C3)/Avionics directorates, respectively.



Red Cross Blood Drive

The depot's Red Cross blood drive dates are the first and third Wednesday of each month. To schedule an appointment, employees must obtain supervisory approval and then call X57091.

An employee here was clowning around in the Dominican Republic. The frivolity was for a serious reason, however, Mary Noldy spent March 18-25 in the country on her first missionary trip. Located in the Caribbean Sea, the Dominican Republic shares the island of Hispaniola with the country of Haiti.

Noldy, an equal employment specialist, was part of a 19-person group from Green Ridge Assembly of God Church who gave medical care, built homes and lent other assistance to the residents of Pedregal.

A member of the church who will work in the country as a nurse in the near future coordinated the trip.

"While there we saw many things not seen at home: A man plowing a patch of land with a team of oxen, an above-ground cemetery and sewer water in the streets," she said. In most places, there was no sewer system.

Noldy's job was to dress as a clown to entertain the children and encourage them to go to school and the medical clinic.

Although walking around dressed as a clown in an impoverished village may seem strange, it had a serious purpose.

"We walked the winding dirt paths through the town greeting everyone and tossing candy," she said. "We would call out 'Venga a la clinica a las dos,' which translates as 'Come to the clinic at two o'clock.'

Noldy said health care and nutrition are so poor that many villagers have deformities. The only medical care they receive is from a woman with limited training.

"At the clinic we also held Bible school, which the kids loved," Noldy said. "We used a lot of visuals and had a translator. The adults would come to see what we were doing and we made many friends."

Most of the children receive schooling, but for only two hours a day.

Despite the poverty, many of the children were dressed well, due in large part to American donations.

She recommended donations be sent through an organization that mails items directly to a distributor in the country.

In the village, most of the families live in one-room houses led by women.

The few women who find employment work long hours and rarely see their children, who Noldy said "just sort of raise themselves."

"The buildings we saw were little more than shacks,"

Dominicans benefit from employee's kindness

by Anthony Ricchiazzi
Editor



Mary Noldy, top photo, spent her first missionary trip in the Dominican Republic helping members of a village. The missionary team urged the villagers to receive health care, offered church and Bible school services, and constructed two buildings. Noldy dressed as a clown to encourage the children to go to the health clinic and school. Noldy is an equal employment specialist in the Equal Opportunity Office.

she said. "There were piles of garbage burning everywhere."

The hills surrounding Pedregal are similar to this area, but they are covered with palm and banana trees.

While Mary and the others playing clowns encouraged the villagers to seek medical care and to attend church and Bible school, other volunteers were constructing two buildings, one for the local medical technician and the other for an elderly woman so her family could live with her.

"They built the structures, installed the roofs, installed wiring and poured concrete floors," Noldy

recalled. "They accomplished more than they expected. Every day at noon we met for lunch. We'd have peanut butter and jelly or ham and cheese sandwiches with bananas. Sometimes some of us went across the street where they had a small open store and would buy sodas for 13 pesos, or 42 cents."

In contrast, at their camp, which was more like a motel, they had fresh vegetables, fruit, rice and meat every night.

"The coffee was delicious; it was thick and sweet and served in little cups."

"There was little sleep because dogs, chickens and roosters were everywhere and from 3 a.m. on you usually heard them," she said.

The group was also cautioned to keep their flip flops on in the shower (cold water only) and "absolutely don't drink the tap water."

The electricity went out twice every day for a few hours.

Despite the poverty and primitive health care, she saw no bitterness in the villagers. The children would take their hands and walk with them and she got to know many by name.

"They would hang out with us even after we were done with our lessons and games," she said. "They tried to share English with us, mostly 'Hey you!', and we shared our knowledge of Spanish with them, which they appreciated."

She added that the women want you to pick up their babies. They like visitors to their homes, greeting everyone with a kiss to the right cheek.

On their last afternoon, they did some sightseeing. "We walked over a series of suspension bridges and up hills to get to the falls where Jurassic Park was filmed. It was simply beautiful and we swam in some of the pools under the falls," she said.

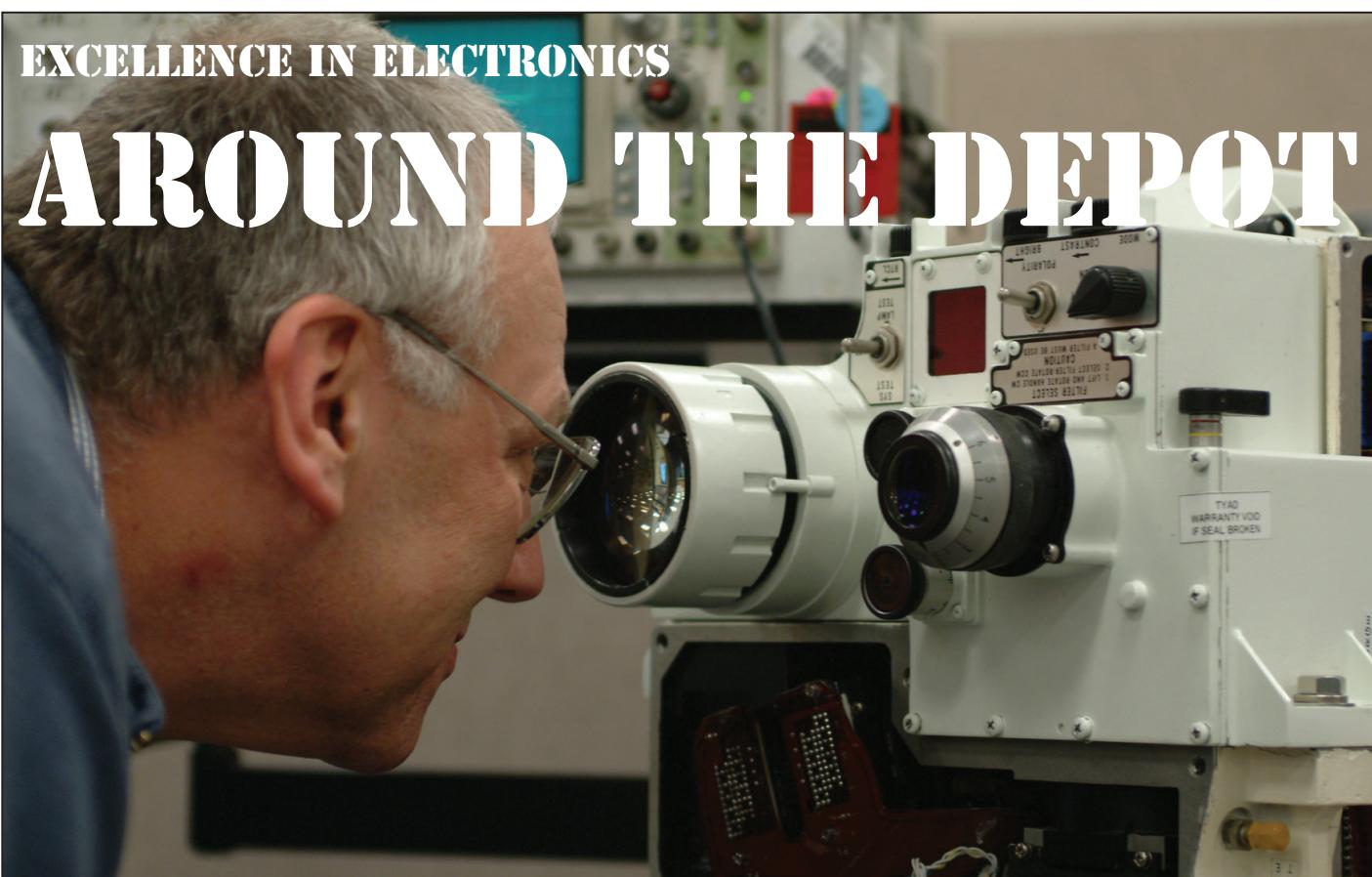
"When we left the village we had a chance to say goodbye to all our new friends," she said. "There were many hugs and tears. We knew that we had made a difference to some. But their lives had impacted ours as well and we would never be the same."



Photos courtesy Mary Noldy

EXCELLENCE IN ELECTRONICS

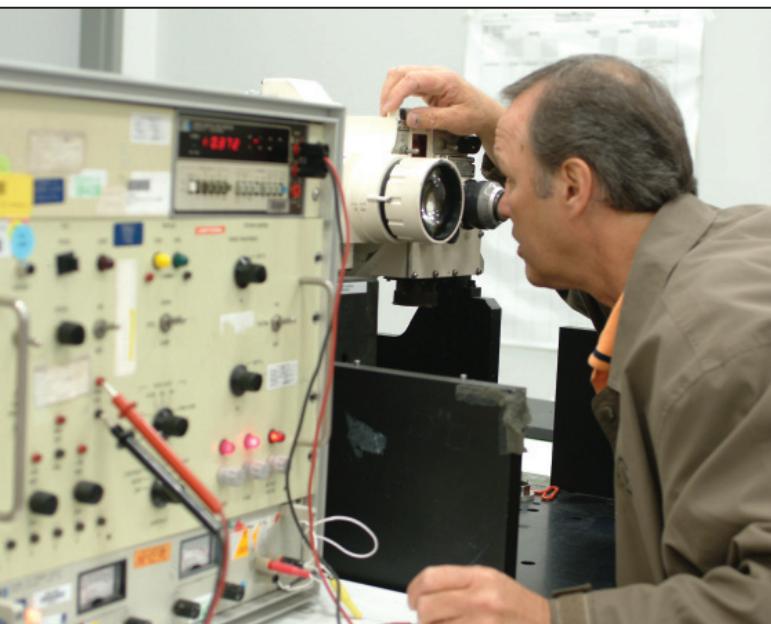
AROUND THE DEPOT



Bob Soulsby checks the optical bench assembly of an M60 Thermal Imaging System. He is an electronics mechanic in the Electro-Optic Night Vision Division.



Jim Romaniello adjusts an athermal circuit card on a gunner's display unit. He is an EO night vision electronics mechanic.



Romaniello checks the Reticle Positioning Unit travel on a gunner's display unit.



The M60 head assembly work cell consists of five separate stations: mechanical, electrical, detailing, purge, and inspection and final test.

Photos by Tracey Condi



Equipment Specs

The M60 Tank Thermal Sight provides the gunner and tank commander with a thermal video image. The sight uses infrared energy (heat) to provide thermal images and is capable of seeing through fog, rain, dust and snow. It has a visual range of up to two miles and is used in conjunction with the laser range finder to find and "paint" potential targets.

Tank Thermal/ Common Modules Branch
Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate
The branch's 26 employees repair, modify and test power converters, mechanical scanners, cryogenic coolers, power supplies, thermal sights, a wide selection of circuit card assemblies and several other sub-systems associated with the Bradley Fighting Vehicle, M1 tank, M60 tank, Apache Helicopter, AN/TAS-4B Infrared Night Vision Sight, TOW II Integrated sight unit, AN/TAS-4B Infrared Viewing Set, and the M83 Guided Missile Launcher.

WORK SMARTER, NOT HARDER

THE LEAN EFFECT



Gunner Display Unit

13 percent reduction in flow days

Head Assembly

12 percent reduction in flow days

Commander's Display

75 percent reduction in material movement

Unpack/Pack Area

62 percent reduction in manual cycle time

Paint Prep Area

12 percent reduction in manual cycle time

Editor's Note: 'Around the Depot' is a Reporter feature intended to inform readers about the important work performed by personnel throughout the depot. Each edition will focus on the key systems maintained by personnel in a specific organization.



The head Line Repair Unit (LRU) test station tests the multiple functions of the M60 head assembly.

WELCOME TO THE DEPOT

Name	Title	Organization
Kevin Batalin	Carpenter helper, trainee	D/PW
Paul Broussard	Electronics equipment spec	D/SIS
Terrence Frazier	Materials handler	D/C3/Avionics
John Glatz	Electronics mechanic	D/ISR
Jake Haff	Distribution process worker	DDTP
Kevin Judd	Supply technician	D/PM
Kevin Markulics	Packer	DDTP
Margaret O'Hara	Supply technician	D/PM
Jennifer Pacanowski	Security guard	D/IRM
Jon Satriano	Distribution process worker	DDTP
Jason Sprague	Electronics mechanic	D/ISR

NEW SUPERVISOR

Michael Verrastro is chief of the Bradley Fighting Vehicle Branch, Electro-Optic/Night Vision Division, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate.

As chief, he supervises 25 technicians who repair and overhaul the Bradley Fighting Vehicle Integrated Sight Unit and its sub-components.

Prior to his current position, Verrastro was chief of the Firefinder Shelter Branch. He began his career at Tobyhanna in May 2000 in the interrogator shop, working on the TPX-46 Hawk and Patriot Missile systems' identify friend or foe units. He earned a certificate of appreciation while deployed during



Verrastro

Operation Iraqi Freedom and Commander's Award for Excellence while deployed to Qatar.

Verrastro is a 1977 graduate of North Pocono High School in Moscow. He's working toward an engineering degree.

He is a member of the National Rifle Association and Association of the United States Army.

His hobbies include making wine, fishing, spending time outdoors, working around the house, woodworking, traveling and spending time with his wife, Kathy.

He resides in Madison Township with his wife. They've been married 27 years and are the parents of a daughter, Vanessa.

RETIREES

One employee met with depot commander Col. Tracy Ellis May 26 before retiring.

Clarence Detrick was a tool maker, Industrial Services Division, Systems Integration and Support Directorate.

He served four years in the Air Force before starting work at Tobyhanna in 1980.

Detrick resides in Reeders with his wife, Verna. He plans to travel to auto shows featuring street rods and work on the house after retirement. His hobbies include working on tractors and street rods, and landscaping.



Detrick

Army is force for good, leaders say

by Sgt. Sara Wood, USA
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON—The U.S. is safer because men and women have stepped forward and joined the Army to defend freedom and to liberate people all over the world, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said in marking the Army's birthday June 14.

"In the Army's two-plus centuries, we've come from a collection of militias representing the 13 colonies to the most impressive military force in the history of the world," Rumsfeld said at the Army's 231st birthday ceremony at the Pentagon.

Rumsfeld cited historian Stephen Ambrose, who said historically, the arrival of armies meant terror and destruction, but the U.S. Army changed that by bringing hope and assistance.

"What he was saying is that the Army, while always fierce and formidable to be sure, was something more, even unprecedented," Rumsfeld said. "We were a force for good in the world," he said.

During his years in DoD, Rumsfeld has met tens of thousands of Soldiers, he said, and while they all come from different backgrounds, they share a distinctive strength.

"They share an inner strength, a strength that has defined the American Soldier for generations," he said. "It's a strength that carried special operations forces along dark and narrow paths in Afghanistan in the mountains, that propelled the 'thunder run' in Baghdad, and that each day inspires personal acts of courage and

heroism in the streets and villages of Iraq."

The men and women who serve in the Army are the reason the Army is the preeminent land force in the world, Army Secretary Francis J. Harvey said at the ceremony. Today's celebration was dedicated to the Army's "boots on the ground"—the Soldiers, civilians, veterans and family members who make up the Army family, he said.

"The Army is and has always been a 'people' organization," Harvey said. "And it is the perseverance, dedication and courage of men and women who have answered the call to duty that is key to achieving victory in the war on terrorism."

America is in a critical time right now, and those who serve in the military are contributing to history, Rumsfeld said. He noted that servicemembers' children will be able to look at history books years from now and be proud of their parents' accomplishments.

"They'll remember that you stepped forward voluntarily and raised your hands to ensure their safety and their security in a time of war," he said. "Always remember that our country is safer because you have stepped forward, and we are forever in your debt."

The Army birthday celebration is important because it gives Soldiers a chance to reflect on the Army's service to America and it reminds them of lessons from the past that can give them an anchor for the future, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker said. But, most importantly, the Army's birthday honors all Soldiers — past, present and future, he said.

THANKS

Dear John Ross,

On behalf of the United Way of Wyoming County and the Volunteer Action Center, thank you for your support of the 13th Annual Day of Caring. The weather was beautiful for most of the day, the agencies were raring to go and the representation from your company completed the circle.

Your eagerness to support this one day project is praiseworthy. With over 900 volunteers from 63 companies, agencies, high schools and teams of individuals, I couldn't possibly put into dollars what this one day is worth to the agencies that received the assistance. According to national statistics, the 2006 estimate for the

value of a volunteer hour has reached \$18.04 per hour. You do the math! At the end of the day, 60 projects were completed at 45 non-profit agencies.

In closing, my words certainly do not express the appreciation felt by everyone. From the agencies to the individual recipients of your services on Day of Caring to the community as a whole which benefited from your generosity, please accept our heartfelt gratitude.

Maureen Jordan, Director
Volunteer Action Center

Editor's Note: Three depot employees, a retired employee and a former employee participated.

Dear Colonel Ellis:

I congratulate you and the men and women of Tobyhanna Army Depot for receiving the Secretary of the Army's Environmental Award for Pollution Prevention for the Industrial Installation Category, and for successfully recertifying in ISO 14001 every six months since 2003. This award and the recertification process represent very significant accomplishments in which the Tobyhanna Army Depot community can take great pride.

Tobyhanna Army Depot continues to make significant strides in its ability to provide military value to our commonwealth and nation. Tobyhanna has been very impressive in its mission orientation, growth, productivity, overall mission accomplishment and environmental stewardship.

I wish you and the men and women at Tobyhanna Army Depot continued success in your quest for excellence in all facets of your operations. Your efforts bring great pride to Pennsylvania and our nation.



Photo by Commonwealth Media Services

Edward G. Rendell

Edward G. Rendell
Governor

JOB
WELL
DONE

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

Editor's Note: The Community Bulletin provides an avenue for depot and tenant employees to advertise van or car pools, and for-sale items. Money making items such as rentals and personal business will not be accepted.

Information must be submitted via e-mail to Jacqueline.Boucher@tobyhanna.army.mil, or written items can be mailed to the Public Affairs Office, mail stop 5076.

Submissions must include a name and telephone extension. Only home phone numbers will be published in the Trading Post section. Ads will be published in four consecutive newspapers. It is the customer's responsibility to update or renew items listed in the Community Bulletin.

For more information, call Jacqueline Boucher, X58073.



VAN/CAR POOLS

- **Clarks Summit:** 2 openings, 5/4/9, pickup point at the VFW, contact John Bevard, X56250 or e-mail.
- **Pittston:** Openings, 5/4/9, leaves Pittston Plaza at 6 a.m., call Stanley, X59967 or Dave, X57067.
- **Taylor:** Individual seeks van pool, 6-7 passengers, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., call Steve Kishel, X58727.
- **Palmerton, West End, Brodheadsville:** Openings, 5/4/9, Routes 115/940 area, send e-mail to Keith Orach.
- **Jessup, Archbald, Mount Cobb park & ride:** Starting van pool, 7 passengers, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., contact Keli Miletta, X59158, or keli.miletta@us.army.mil.
- **Dallas, Shavertown, Exeter:** Accepting names for waiting list, 7 passengers, van, non-smoking, 5/4/9, contact Bob Redinski, X59184 or send e-mail.
- **Lehigh Valley:** 2 openings, 7 passengers, van, 5/4/9, starts in Bethlehem, pick up points in Wind Gap and Snydersville, call Nancy Turha, X56454.
- **Waymart, Lake Ariel, Sterling:** 1 opening, 7 passengers, van, 5/4/9, call Wade Myrthel, X59291.
- **Wilkes Barre:** 1-2 openings, car, 5/4/9, first Friday off, "A" placard, starts at Sam's Club, call X56261 or 510-7692.
- **Mountaintop, White Haven:** 1 opening, van, 7 passengers, 5/4/9, call Rich Henning, X56238.
- **Nanticoke, Sugar Notch:** 1 opening, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., contact John Bienick, X57646 or john.j.bienick@us.army.mil.
- **Moosic, Avoca, Meadow Avenue area:** 2 openings, van, 7 passengers, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The route originates in the Greenwood section of Moosic and travels Route 307, contact Dave Pietryka, X57361/X57646 or send e-mail.



TRADING POST

- **Canoe:** Looking to purchase a canoe, call Mary, 504-4827.
- **Air Conditioner:** Portable, 10,000 BTU, used 3 months, original price, \$385, asking \$250, call Gloria, 876-3978.
- **Sleeper sofa:** Queen-size, \$150 OBO, call Darlene, 894-4912.
- **Boat:** Starcraft Semi V, 12 feet, 10

horsepower Johnson outboard motor, trailer, \$1,495, call Al Aukscunas, 343-9541.

• **Car seat:** Alpha Omiga, 5-point adjustable harness, 5-40 pounds; rear facing 5-35 pounds and forward facing, 22-40 pounds, excellent condition, call Karen, 842-1204.

• **Pool heater:** Hayward, hoses included, 150,000 BTU, like new, used one season, original cost \$1,000, asking \$650, call Darlene, 894-4912.

• **Household items:** Antique dining hutch, \$250; antique round pedestal occasional table, \$75; youth, wood bunk bed set with mattresses, \$60; youth 3-drawer dresser and 4-drawer desk, \$20 each; recliner, \$40; weight set and bench, \$30, and brass bed, \$200, call Terry, 839-2416 or 839-9428.

• **Recreational vehicles:** ATV, 2005 Polaris Trail Boss 330, excellent condition, ridden twice, \$3,500 OBO, and 1998 Ford Minnie Winnebago, 22 feet, Class C, 33,682 miles, sleeps 6, bathroom in rear w/stand-up shower, roof A/C and heater, trailer hitch, refrigerator, freezer, 3-burner stove/oven, microwave/hood combo, color TV, DVD player, asking \$26,500, call Cristin, 472-3319 or 972-6332.

• **Windows:** (2) special order, 25.5x48.5 (rough opening), call Gloria, 876-3978.

• **Futon/bed mattress:** Simmons Beautyrest Supreme 5/0, queen size, like new, hardly used, \$200, call Melissa Ross, 341-5133.

• **Beer Meister:** Includes all equipment, converts into dorm-sized refrigerator, holds 1/4, still in original packing, asking \$550, call Sean Manley, 326-0143.

• **Toyota Camry:** 2000 LE, excellent condition, new tires, inspection, 4-cylinder, auto, A/C, all power options, rear spoiler, 4-wheel ABS, keyless entry system, 100,000 highway miles, AM/FM/cassette/CD, extra snow tires, alloy wheels, asking \$7,900, Call Ken Hill, 350-0289.

• **House:** 4-bedroom, 2.5 baths, 4.5 acres of privacy, full basement, 2-car garage, island kitchen, JennAir stove, master bath has whirlpool tub, tons of closet space throughout, built in 2000, and hardwood, tile and carpeted floors, call Art Tompkins, 842-5366.

• **Fiberglass truck cap:** 8 feet, fits 1998 Chevy or GMC, sliding rear window, 2 locks, ARE Impulse wedge (high top), red, used 1 year, paid \$1,250, asking \$450 OBO, call Gloria, 876-3978.



Tony Cucharo tests the elevation mirror of a Bradley Fighting Vehicle Periscope Head, seen in the background. Cucharo is an electronics mechanic in the Bradley Fighting Vehicle Branch, part of the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate's Electro Optics/Night Vision Division. (Photo by Anthony Ricchiazzi)

SURVIVAL from Page 1 —

They were a special order item which could only be procured from a company in Texas."

McGinty noted their biggest challenge was from the damage caused by the fine sand in Iraq.

"It's extremely pervasive and gets into everything, all the mechanical items even down to screw threads."

"The surfaces of several of the components, such as lenses, motors and circuit cards, looked liked they had been sandblasted," Verrastro added. "We had to re-die threads and replace several of the components in each periscope head."

Cuchara, along with other team members working on electronics items, such as circuit cards had to twice repair and test resolvers, which are position sensors that align and relay information to the weapons systems. "We thought they were new, but after initial

testing, we found they were out of spec, so we had to remove them from the periscope heads and work them again."

"There was also battle damage; periscopes shot up, burned, things like that," McGinty said.

"Everyone involved did a great job," Verrastro noted. "Even though the cells who lent the team members were then shorthanded, the other technicians picked up the slack and we had no loss of production for our other missions. We have never had a periscope head returned from the field or a QDR (quality deficient report) filed against us. Considering the environment these things must operate under in Southwest Asia, that is exemplary."

Team members were: electronics mechanics Tony Cuchara, Rich Evans, Mark Kochuba, Mike McGinty and Bob Urbanski; John Gower, electronics worker; and Bernie Karlowicz, electronics mechanic helper.

Shoppers save by combining trips to the commissary, PX

FORT LEE, Va. — According to a recent survey released by the Urban Land Institute, more than 80 percent of American drivers say they now combine trips to save gas.

Military shoppers in the United States, active duty military living off the installation, retirees, or Guard and Reserve families often drive as much as 30 miles or more to take advantage of the tremendous savings offered at commissaries and exchanges.

"Understanding that we share the same group of authorized customers, exchange planners have been focused on working cooperatively with DeCA and installation commands to co-locate the commissary and the exchange whenever possible," said Army and Air Force Exchange Service Commander Maj. Gen. Bill Essex. "By working together we hope to encourage military families to strengthen both benefits by combining them into one visit."

A few other tips to increase the savings at your commissary and exchange:

— Clip coupons.

— Be selective.

— Stock up. Bring a cooler and stock up on a variety of meats at the commissary.

— Log on. The Exchange Catalog and online store at <http://www.aafes.com>

— Virtual Commissary at <http://www.commissaries.com> is also tapping into customer interest for online purchases.

— Guard and Reserve families can get together and take a van trip to the nearest installation.

— Find out what's on sale ahead of time at the exchange by logging onto the AAFES Web site at <http://www.aafes.com>

— Check out what's on sale at the commissary at the "savings aisle" under the shopping link at <http://www.commissaries.com>.

Avian flu:

Pandemic concern eases for H5N1 strain, scientists watchful for other outbreaks

by Dr. Rick Lippin, director
U.S. Army Health Clinic, Tobyhanna

There is much concern surrounding the word "flu" these days primarily because many experts believe a pandemic could occur.

We began to understand the origin of flu (technically called influenza) as a result of a devastating pandemic known as the Spanish Flu beginning in the winter of 1918/1919. It was the worst flu epidemic in modern history, killing about 50 million worldwide, including more than 500,000 Americans.

Each year, the Centers for Disease Control reports that about 36,000 Americans die from the regular seasonal flu; more than 90 percent of these cases are fragile people over 65.

Flu pandemics are different from the regular seasonal flu because usually in a pandemic, new virus types to which humans have little to no previous exposure or immunity are the cause.

Recent history

In 1997, a new strain of flu (H5N1) broke out in Hong Kong in birds. In 2005, this new strain of virus began expanding outside of Asia. It came to be known as bird flu or avian flu because millions of birds were infected and slaughtered.

A limited number of humans contracted this disease,



mostly in Asia, and it has caused over 100 human deaths in eight countries to date. This is still a very small number given a world population of more than six billion. Not a single bird or human has been infected in the United States to date.

In 2005, international experts began to warn of a potential dangerous pandemic for several reasons.

First, it was felt that we were "overdue" given the cycle of flu pandemics. Second, this particular bird flu virus was thought to be new, hence most people did not have any resistance to it. Third, the virus seemed to have a death rate of 50 percent, which is high for a flu virus.

Finally, given the current amount of global air travel, it was thought that this virus could spread more rapidly than past outbreaks.

As we began to understand this flu strain, it became apparent that so far no sustained human to human transmission was occurring. People were getting it mostly from handling birds, therefore the experts began to focus on preparing for any pandemic flu outbreak rather than specifically a bird flu (H5N1) outbreak.

Can flu be cured?

There is no known cure for the flu. There are four antiviral "limited treatment" drugs on the market. They are Amantadine, Rimantidine, Tamiflu and Relenza. But all of these antivirals only shorten the length of the episode if taken within the first two days of the onset of symptoms.

All of these drugs have also been studied as a possible preventive/protective measure. But the definitive studies in humans, especially against bird or pandemic flu, are not yet complete.

Flu vaccine for prevention

The very best way to prevent flu is to get the annual flu shot. High risk groups are prioritized, but the CDC recommends that all U.S. citizens get the flu vaccine annually (with a few groups medically excluded).

Flu vaccine is a single, safe vaccine that is different every year, so an annual shot is recommended, preferably in October or November.

In 2003, a vaccine introduced through the nose as a spray was approved for healthy people ages 5 to 49.

There is no current vaccine for avian flu.

Scientists are in a constant race to understand which flu varieties present the most risk in a given year, and once they decide, it takes at least six months to make the annual vaccine. So if a pandemic should occur, especially if it is a new virus, there may have a severe shortage of available flu vaccine.

Currently, a significant shortage of antiviral medications for either treatment or prevention would occur in a pandemic.

Hopeful developments

Bird flu, feared so much last year, so far has still not been observed to be transmitted human to human in any sustained way. Worldwide and U.S. surveillance systems in birds and humans have significantly advanced over the past few years.

Improved, faster flu diagnostic tests are being developed. Cell-based vaccine production research using genetics technology is rapidly progressing, which would allow for much faster and larger specific flu vaccine production than the current egg production methods. Increasing amounts of antiviral medications are in production and new types are being studied.

What is being done at Tobyhanna?

Employees who are traveling to areas where birds are infected with H5N1 (avian flu) are given instructions by the medical department.

Each year, the Tobyhanna clinic provides free regular flu vaccinations to eligible employees. In addition to the injectable vaccine, last year for the first time we received the intranasal spray vaccine as well.

Credible flu Web sites

The health clinic recommends the following Web sites for employees who want to learn more for themselves, their coworkers and their families about the flu.

General information: www.PandemicFlu.gov
www.usda.gov/birdflu

Prevention: www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/stopgerms.htm; www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/preventing.htm.

Vaccines and vaccinations: www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/keyfacts.htm; www.cdc.gov/flu/; [www.cdc.gov/avian/](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/).

Preparedness and individual planning: www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/tab3.html

Pa. National Guard welcomes newest combat vehicle

by Pfc. Elizabeth Jones
Army News Service

FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, Pa. — The Pennsylvania National Guard's 56th Combat Stryker Brigade became the first National Guard unit to welcome the Stryker light armored vehicle to its fleet during a rollout ceremony June 10.

The ceremony marked the unit's transformation from a heavy combat brigade to a Stryker brigade, one of seven elite rapid-mobilization brigades in the Army and the only National Guard unit selected for the program.

"The experience of this brigade from concept development to material fielding is not only serving as a catalyst to lead change across the Army National Guard here in Pennsylvania, but across the entire force," said Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard A. Cody. "We in the Army's senior leadership are committed to producing units

that are fully ready in terms of training in modernized equipment ... in whatever capacity they may be called on to serve this nation as citizen Soldiers."

"We appreciate the confidence that the Department of Army has placed in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard," said Maj. Gen. Jessica L. Wright, Pa. NG adjutant general. "And I assure you that our Stryker brigade combat team will be the best in the inventory."

The brigade began training in 2003, adding 20 extra days to their yearly training calendar so Soldiers would have extensive instruction on new electronic surveillance systems, visual communications equipment and driver training for the Stryker.

"I feel like I'm ready to go whenever they need me," said Spc. Scott Jones, Calvary scout for Alpha Co., 2nd 104th Calvary.

"They are enthusiastic about change; they embrace technology and they are warriors," Wright added. "The combination



The Pennsylvania National Guard's 56th Combat Stryker Brigade became the first National Guard unit to welcome the Stryker to its fleet during a ceremony at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., June 10. (Photo by Master Sgt. Dick Breach)

of Soldier and machine will prove formidable anywhere in the world, as well as a tremendous asset here at home."

Lt. Governor Catherine Baker Knoll and

U.S. Reps. Tim Holden and John Murtha also attended the ceremony.

Editor's Note: Pfc. Elizabeth Jones writes for the 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.